**Bedroom**

The first thing I notice when I wake up is that the chair beside my desk is empty today. I didn’t really think of it before, but what Mara said about me being lonely yesterday might’ve actually been true…

With a sigh I sit up and slip out of bed, hoping that I didn’t wake up late again. Well, at least I’ll be able to see her soon.

As I button up my shirt my phone buzzes, and I stop part way to check it, finding a text from Mara.

Mara (text): Won’t be able to go to school with you today. Sorry.

Oh.

Yet another sigh escapes my lips, and I almost consider going back to bed when I notice the weather outside.

At least it isn’t a gloomy day outside as well.

**Road**

I spent my trip to school watching other students walking together, cheerfully talking and laughing with each other. Sometimes I wish that I made more friends in high school, or that I was smart enough to go to Mara’s school as well…

But if I did, then I guess I wouldn’t have met people like Asher, or Prim…

They’re important too.

At times like these, though, it’s easy to feel a little discontent.

Well, after school today I’ll be able to go to practice with Prim. Or maybe I’ll even run into her this morning.

Actually, will she even go to school? After what happened with her sister...

Mick (neutral neutral): ...

Mick, but no Prim. Close, but no cigar.

Pro: Hey.

Mick: Hey.

Mick (neutral indifferent):

We stare at each other for a few seconds before silently heading to school, each of us uncomfortable walking the other but also not wanting to be the one that makes it known.

Mick (neutral neutral):

Pro: Um…

Pro: How’s-

I stop myself before I can ask him how Prim’s doing, realizing that Mick might not know about Prim’s sister yet. Well, to be fair, I shouldn’t either.

Mick (neutral confused):

Pro: ...your team?

Mick (neutral skeptical): It’s alright, I guess.

Pro: Uh…

Mick (neutral neutral):

Pro: Do you guys practice a lot?

Mick: Every day.

Pro: Oh. That sounds rough.

Mick (neutral indifferent): It’s alright.

I pause, expecting more of a response but also knowing that it probably won’t come. To be honest, I get the feeling that Mick doesn’t really like me…

Mick (neutral curious):

Suddenly, he taps me on the shoulder.

Mick: I’m gonna grab something for lunch today.

Pro: Oh, sure.

I glance at the small convenience store he’s pointing to, wondering if Prim frequents that place too.

Mick (neutral neutral): You can go on without me.

Pro: Oh, okay.

Pro: See you later then, I guess.

Mick (neutral indifferent): Yeah, see you.

Mick (exit):

With a tinge of relief I watch as he heads over to and disappears into the store, and I quickly resume walking to school.